

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; as Wisconsinites, we are firm believers that the will of the people is the law of the land, and we recognize that it was the people of ancient Greece who first developed the concept of democracy and introduced to the world the idea of direct representative government; and

*WHEREAS*; our nation's founders drew heavily on the principles, political experience, and philosophy of the ancient Greeks in establishing the basis for democracy in the United States; and

*WHEREAS*; on March 25, 1821, the Greek nation began its fight for independence, rising up against the occupying forces of the Ottoman Empire and waging a successful war that would lead to the reinstatement of a democratic form of government in 1829; and

*WHEREAS*; many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in their fight for independence, while stirring speeches by President James Monroe and Secretary of State Daniel Webster led the United States Congress to send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in their struggle for freedom; and

*WHEREAS*; the Greek War of Independence marked the beginning of a close partnership between the governments and people of Greece and the United States that endures to this day and, together, our two countries are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights across the globe; and

*WHEREAS*; Wisconsin is home to a significant number of residents of Greek descent, and notable Greek-American Wisconsinites from our history include Lucas Miltiades Miller who, after being orphaned by the Greek War of Independence at the age of four, was adopted by an American soldier and brought to the United States, and became the first Greek-American member of the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1853, as well as the first Greek-American elected to Congress, representing Wisconsin's 6th District, in 1891; and

*WHEREAS*; Greek-Americans are an essential part of the fabric of Wisconsin's history, culture, and economy, and this occasion presents our state with the opportunity to renew and strengthen our cultural ties with Greece; and

*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in reflecting on the countless contributions of Greek history and culture to our state and country, and extends warm wishes to the people of Greece and Greek-Americans as we celebrate 200 years of Greece's independence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim March 25, 2021, as

## 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the Great  
Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be  
affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of  
Madison this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas La Follette".  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State